

small peanuts and having the same agreeable flavor when roasted. The fleshy young pods probably could be cooked and eaten like green beans, since they do not taste bitter, even in the raw state. The largest pods have nine fully developed and two abortive beans.

The Olneya is the largest as well as the most attractive native tree in the driest deserts of the Southwest, away from the stream beds and with full exposure to heat and drought. The large taproot remains entirely unbranched for 7 or 8 feet. Such a habit of growth would indicate little or no interference with surface crops and would suggest the value of the tree for planting in or near cultivated lands where it may serve very well for hedges or windbreaks, as well as for holding terraces or as barriers against erosion. Even on desert lands that are too broken for irrigation it might prove worth while to plant belts of Olneya across the washes, to hold back and spread the flood waters. More moisture would be absorbed by the soil, and more vegetation could grow in addition to the forage that the Olneya itself would afford. (Adapted from O. F. Cook, *Journal of Heredity*, vol. 10, p. 321.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 4537.

51255 and 51256.

From Alexandria, Egypt. Seeds presented by Prof. S. C. Mason, arboriculturist, United States Department of Agriculture. Received September 21, 1920.

51255. *ALLIUM CEPA* L. Liliaceæ.

Onion.

A variety cultivated near Alexandria that may be useful for breeding work.

51256. *CUCUMIS MELO* L. Cucurbitaceæ.

Muskmelon.

"*Aggur muskmelon*." (Mason.)

51257. *DIGITARIA IBURUA* Stapf. Poaceæ.

Grass.

From Kaduna, Nigeria. Seeds presented by P. H. Lamb, director of Agriculture, Northern Provinces. Received August 24, 1920.

"*Iburu* is grown by the natives of Northern Nigeria as a cereal. The grains separate fairly readily from the husks when pressure is applied, and the seeds are pure white. They weigh in their husks on the average 0.7 mgr., so that over 40,000 go to one ounce. As one raceme may contain as many as 200 spikelets, a single head may yield between 1,000 and 2,000 grains." (*Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*, No. 8, 1915, p. 331.)

"Introduced for testing as a forage crop." (Piper.)

51258 to 51265.

From Coban, Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala. Seeds presented by Harry Johnson. Received September 15, 1920. Quoted notes by Mr. Johnson.

51258. *DESMONCUS* sp. Phœnicaceæ.

Palm.

"(No. 585.) A very spiny ornamental vine climbing, by hooks at the tip of the rachis, to the tops of forest trees."

51259. *PANICUM MILLEGRA* Poir. Poaceæ.

Grass.

"(No. 438.) From Chipok, Coban. A creeping grass, rooting at the nodes, growing luxuriantly on clay banks."

51260. *PANICUM FASCICULATUM* Swartz. Poaceæ.

Grass.

"(No. 496.) Grass from Chama. More or less stooling in habit: leaves rather sparse."